



Sully Spotlight

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January 2008

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A Fairfax County, Va., publication

Events of Interest

☞ **Tues., Jan. 15 @ 7:30 p.m.—CAC Meeting, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd.**

Another Successful Year for Santa's Ride



Thank you for another successful Santa's Ride! The children at the hospitals were once again given a little bit of the holidays while they struggle with their illnesses away from their homes and families. We have completed 20 years of providing joy to children who may otherwise not have the opportunity to visit with Santa, open presents and just smile. In 11 months we will be doing it all again. We hope more people will join us to help brighten the holidays for even more children spending their holidays in hospitals in the Washington metro area. Have a happy and healthy 2008!

Don't Fall Prey to Urban Legends



Do you receive e-mails from friends that look authentic and end by urging you to pass the e-mail on to more people? Maybe it talks about new “gang initiations”, sneakers hanging over a power line or even “Amber Alerts”. Many times these e-mails fall are urban legends that circulate all over the web. You can verify the legitimacy of these emails by visiting a site called www.snopes.com. This website covers a variety of urban legends. Check it out and read some of the legends out there.



Keep Your Children Safe in the Snow



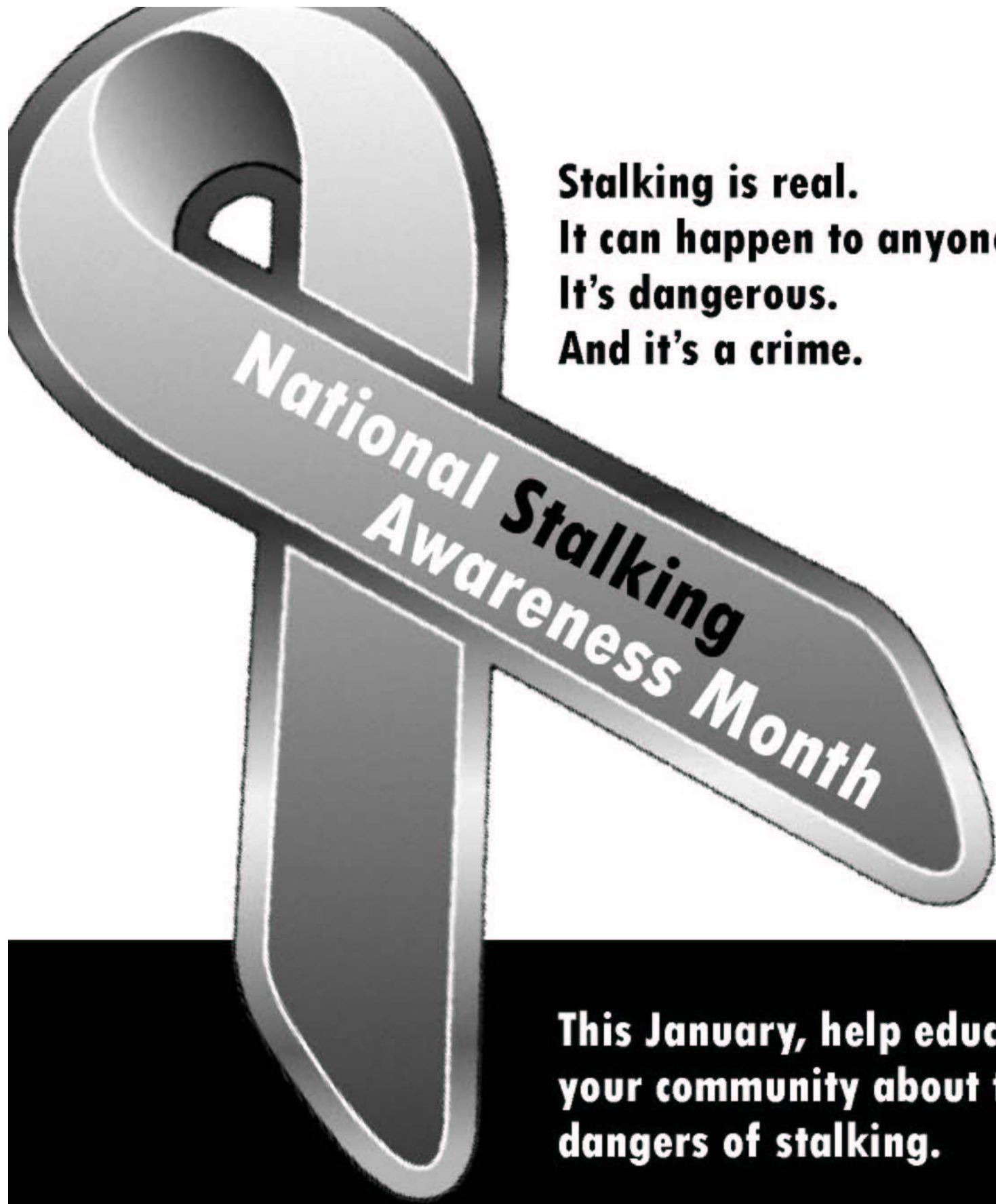
Ice Skating

- Allow children to skate only on approved surfaces. Check for signs posted by local police or recreation departments, or call your local police department to find out which areas have been approved.
- Advise your child to: skate in the same direction as the crowd; avoid darting across the ice; never skate alone; not chew gum or eat candy while skating.
- Consider having your child wear a helmet while ice skating.

Sledding

- Keep sledders away from motor vehicles.
- Children should be supervised while sledding.
- Keep young children separated from older children.
- Sledding feet first or sitting up, instead of lying down head-first, may prevent head injuries.
- Consider having your child wear a helmet while sledding.
- Use sleds that steer, not snow disks or inner tubes.
- Sleds should be structurally sound and free of sharp edges and splinters, and the steering mechanism should be well lubricated.
- Sled slopes should be free of obstructions like trees or fences, be covered in snow not ice, not be too steep (slope of less than 30°), and end with a flat runoff.
- Avoid sledding in crowded areas.





**Stalking is real.
It can happen to anyone.
It's dangerous.
And it's a crime.**

**National Stalking
Awareness Month**

**This January, help educate
your community about the
dangers of stalking.**

Stalking
resource center

www.ncvc.org/src

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

1-800-FYI-CALL

This document was developed under grant number 2004WTAXK050 from the Office on Violence Against Women of the U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions and views expressed in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.

TEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STALKING

1. Stalking is a crime.

Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that places a reasonable person in fear for her or his safety. It is against the law in every state. Stalking across state lines or in federal territories is illegal under federal law.

2. Many people are stalked.

One in 12 women and one in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetimes.
1.4 million people are stalked every year in the United States.

3. Stalking can be very dangerous.

76 percent of women killed by their intimate partners were stalked by these partners before they were killed. All stalkers should be considered unpredictable and very dangerous.

4. Stalking is harmful and intrusive.

Stalking victims often lose time from work or never return to work, and some even relocate to regain a sense of safety. Many suffer from anxiety, insomnia and severe depression as a result of being stalked.

5. Anyone can be stalked—not just celebrities.

The vast majority of stalking victims are ordinary people. Furthermore, most stalkers are not strangers, but are known to their victim.

6. Stalking can occur during a relationship, after a relationship, or in the absence of a relationship.

Stalking often begins during a relationship. Stalkers may keep the victim under surveillance or threaten her or him. Others begin stalking after the victim has ended the relationship, and the stalker feels desperate to maintain or regain control. Still others become fixated on a victim without ever having had a relationship with the person. All forms of stalking are unpredictable, and all should be considered dangerous.

7. Technology can be used to stalk.

Although newly developed technology enhances our lives, it can also empower criminals. Cell phones, computers and surveillance equipment are just some of the technologies stalkers now use.

8. An effective response to stalking includes the entire community.

Police, prosecutors, advocates, educators, reporters, neighbors...everyone can and should play a part in stopping stalking. Working together, we can make victims safer.

9. You can make a difference.

Visit www.ncvc.org/src to learn more about stalking and how to fight it.

10. Help is available.

If you or someone you know is being stalked, call 1-800-FYI-CALL for assistance.



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Sully District
Crime Prevention Unit



Special Attention!

Navigate away from being a victim

What makes GPS units such a target?



Satellite navigation systems can be pre-installed units fitted into vehicles during the manufacturing process or small, portable units that can be purchased separately and added to vehicles.

The portable units are easily installed with no complicated wiring procedures. Generally, all that is required is to install a cradle which attaches to the front windshield by a suction cup.

These units are small, portable and frequently reported stolen.

Tips for deterring thefts:

- Do not leave valuables visible from the outside. Remove portable GPS units from the dashboard, including the cradle. Do not simply place it in the glove box or under the seat.
- Keep a supply of moist towelettes to clean the area of the windshield marked by the suction cup.
- Do not leave other valuables in the vehicle, including laptop computers, cameras, satellite radios or cellular telephones.
- Lock all doors and close windows when leaving the car, even if it is only for a short time.
- When possible, try to park the vehicle in a well-lit, busy area.



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Publication

For more information regarding this or other important crime prevention initiatives, please contact the Sully District Crime Prevention Unit at 703-814-7018.

To request this information in an alternate format, call 703-814-7018. TTY 703-204-2264





Clearing Snow and Ice

Clearing snow and ice from driveways and sidewalks is hard work. To prevent injuries, follow these safety tips from the National Safety Council, the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, and other prevention organizations.

- Dress warmly, paying special attention to feet, hands, nose and ears.
- Avoid shoveling snow if you are out of shape. If you have a history of heart trouble, do not shovel snow unless your doctor says it's okay.
- Do light warm-up exercises before shoveling and take frequent breaks.
- If possible, push snow in front of you. If you have to lift it, pick up small amounts and lift with your legs, not your back. Do not toss snow over your shoulder or to the side.
- Don't drink alcohol before or while shoveling snow. Never smoke while shoveling.
- Use rock salt or de-icing compounds to remove ice from steps, walkways and side walks. Sand placed on walkways may also help prevent slipping.

If you use a snow blower (also called a snow thrower), follow these safety guidelines:

- Read the owner's manual before starting your snow blower. Make sure you understand all the recommended safety steps.
- Make sure all people and pets are out of the way before you begin.
- Do not put your hand in the snow blower to remove impacted snow or debris. Turn the machine off and wait a few seconds. Then use a stick or broom handle to remove the material.
- Do not leave the snow blower unattended when it is running.
- Fill up with fuel before you start, when the engine is cool.



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

LOCK IT...



BEFORE YOU LEAVE IT

The Sully District Police Station is asking for your help in reducing criminal activity. There are many things that you can do to help reduce thefts, deter burglary and prevent or reduce auto theft, just to name a few!

- Lock vehicle doors at all times
- Park vehicles in well lit areas
- Do not leave valuables in vehicles
- Do not leave keys in vehicles
- Items that must be left in vehicles should be kept hidden from view
- Lock all of your doors at home
- Keep garage doors closed
- Participate in Neighborhood Watch
- Report any and all suspicious activity



Fairfax County Police Department

Non-Emergency

703-691-2131

Emergency

911



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To request this information in an alternate format, call the Sully District Crime Prevention Office at 703-814-7018. TTY 703-204-2264

Sully District Station Child Seat Inspections

Is your child seat installed properly? Is it the correct seat for the child's age and weight? Did you know that your Sully District Station offers free child seat inspections by certified technicians?

Next available dates: Thursday, January 10, 2008
Tuesday, January 15, 2008
Thursday, January 24, 2008
Tuesday, January 29, 2008

5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.



No appointment is necessary. Our technicians request that you make an effort to install your child safety seats yourself, so that they may properly inspect and make adjustments, as necessary. For additional child seat inspection times, you may call the Fairfax County Operations Support Bureau at 703-280-0559.

CAC Corner



The Sully District Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2008 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly. Anyone who lives or works in the Sully District is encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there!

Traffic Trivia

Code of Virginia § 46.2-932. Playing on highways; use of toy vehicle on highways, persons riding bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, mopeds, etc., not to attach to vehicles; exception.

A. No person shall play on a highway, other than on the sidewalks thereof, within a city or town or on any part of a highway outside the limits of a city or town designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner exclusively for vehicular travel. No person shall use any toy vehicle on the roadway of any highway that (i) has a speed limit greater than 25 miles per hour, (ii) has more than two travel lanes, or (iii) is located outside a residence district as defined in § 46.2-100. The governing bodies of counties, cities, and towns may designate areas on highways under their control where play is permitted and may impose reasonable restrictions on play on such highways. Persons using such devices, except bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, mopeds, and motorcycles, shall keep as near as safely practicable to the far right side or edge of the right traffic lane so that they will be proceeding in the same direction as other traffic.

No person riding on any bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, moped, roller skates, skateboards or other devices on wheels or runners, shall attach the same or himself to any vehicle on a highway.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of this section, the governing body of Arlington County may by ordinance permit the use of devices on wheels or runners on highways under such county's control, subject to such limitations and conditions as the governing body may deem necessary and reasonable.

Sully District Police Station
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard
Chantilly, VA 20151

Main Phone 703-814-7000
Fax 703-814-7013

File a Report on Line
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crs

Virginia Amber Alert
<http://www.vaamberalert.com>

**Aggressive Driving—
Report Online at**
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/traf_sfty_report.htm



PHONE NUMBERS

**Fairfax County Crime
Solvers :**
1-866-411-TIPS

**Fairfax County Police
Non-Emergency:**
703-691-2131

**Sully District Crime
Prevention Office:**
703-814-7018

**Child Car Seat
Installation:**
Sully District Station
703-814-7000 x 5140

SAFE (Self Defense Class)
703-246-7806

**Citizen Reporting System
(to file reports only)**
703-691-2131



Have You Checked Your Credit Card Bills Lately?



Even though Christmas is over with, identity theft and credit card fraud are still reasons for concern. How often do you scrutinize your credit card bills when they come in? A family member just received her credit card statement in the mail and found someone had charged flowers to her account over the holidays. She found the discrepancy by scanning her bill and immediately notified her credit card company. Just think of how often you used your credit card this past holiday season and how many sales associates you came into contact with. The more purchases you made, the greater your risk for identity theft.

Take a look at your credit card statements as they arrive over the next few weeks. Make sure that every entry on your statement is a purchase you made. If you are unsure of the transaction, notify your credit card immediately. If you did not hang on to your receipts from your holiday shopping, you should definitely make an effort to do it next year. People looking to commit credit card fraud and identity theft will often take on seasonal jobs to give them access to other people's information. If you suspect you've been the victim of credit card fraud or identity theft, receipts can be a good source to see the breakdown of where you shopped and when.

It is also a good idea to check your credit reports every year. You can contact the three credit report companies: Experian, Trans Union and Equifax. You are allowed one free credit report a year. Take advantage of this service. By checking your credit history annually, you may catch credit that was not created by you. Don't wait until you go to buy a house, a car or other major investment to find out your credit was ruined years ago. Parents should also request credit histories using their children's social security numbers. Thieves have been known to use and destroy children's credit histories which will go undetected for years. The struggle and money needed to re-establish good credit can be devastating to a family. Find out what services your credit card company offers to help protect you against credit card theft and identity theft. You are the first line of defense for crime prevention. Make 2008 a fraud free year for you and your family.

http://www.identitytheftfixes.com/identity_theft_after_the_holidays.html

Newsletter compiled by PFC Mary Hulse